GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4138
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2008
IMPLEMENTATION OF CONDITIONAL ACCESS SYSTEM
Manoj Dr. K.S.

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey regarding the Effectiveness of Conditional Access System (CAS);

(b) whether the Government proposes to establish Conditional Access System (CAS) throughout the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the State Governments have furnished their views in regard to extension/ implementation of CAS in the remaining part of the metros/country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADASTING(SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI)

(a): Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has got two surveys conducted on quality of service and non-set top box (STB) House-holds in Conditional Access System (CAS) areas to assess the success of CAS.

(b) to (f): Yes, Sir. Conditional Access System (CAS) has been implemented in the notified areas of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. Government is in the process of evaluating the implementation of CAS in the 3 metros and Chennai metro area. TRAI has recommended the extension of CAS in the balance area of 3 metros on mandatory basis. TRAI has also forwarded a report of the Group formed of members from different segments of the broadcasting and cable sector to suggest options and roadmap for voluntary introduction of CAS and digitalization in cable television in the country on voluntary-cum-mandatory basis. The Group has recommended a voluntary-cum-mandatory approach to introduction of CAS in fifty five cities which include all the cities with a million plus population, some cities located in the proximity of the existing CAS cities and it has also included all the State capitals which could not come under any of the above criteria. Recommendations of the Group are being deliberated. The issues arising out of the implementation of CAS in the first phase and the strategies to be evolved for its smooth and successful implementation in the next phase of implementation have been discussed by Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in a meeting on 08.4.008 with the concerned State Government officials, TRAI Nodal Officers and various stakeholders including consumers. The Government is inclined to speed up the process of digitalization and introduction of addressability by extending the CAS notified areas. The Government also wants it to be done in a manner which adequately protects consumer interest and leads to their empowerment. The details of further extension are being finalized. No time limits could be given on such policy issues.